

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

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FOLLOWING REPEAT NEW DELHI 7982 ACTION SECSTATE OF JUNE 17, 1974.
QUOTE

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 07982

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OGEN

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER GANDHI'S PRESS CONFERENCE

1. PRIME MINISTER INDIRA GANDHI ADDRESSED A PRESS CONFERENCE
AT A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS ASSOCIATION
OF SOUTH ASIA IN NEW DELHI ON SATURDAY, JUNE 15. THE HOUR-
LONG SESSION COVERED A VARIETY OF SUBJECT.
HIGHLIGHTS FOLLOW.

2. IN ANSWER TO A QUESTION ABOUT INDIA'S NUCLEAR POLICY,
SHE SAID "WE ARE WILLING FOR THE BANNING OF ALL ATOMIC TESTS
IF EVERYBODY ELSE AGREES TO IT". THE SUNDAY STANDARD HEADLINED
THIS STATEMENT AS "INDIA READY TO SIGN TOTAL TEST BAN PACT"

3. QUESTIONED ABOUT INTERNATIONAL INSPECTION OF INDIA'S ATOMIC
RESEARCH PROGRAMS, SHE SAID "WHEREEVER, FOR INSTANCE, WE
HAVE COLLABORATING WITH SOMEBODY THEY ARE FREE TO SEE IT.
NOW I AM NOT MYSELF CLEAR WHAT OTHER NATIONS ALLOW, WHETHER
THEY ALLOW THIS TO THE FULL EXTENT OR NOT." THE SUNDAY
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HINDUSTAN TIMES CARRIED IT WITHOUT DIRECT QUOTATION: "A

CORRESPONDENT ASKED IF INDIA WOULD ALLOW INTERNATIONAL INSPECTION OF ITS NUCLEAR PLANTS. MRS. GANDHI REPLIED THAT SUCH SUPERVISION WAS ALREADY BEING ALLOWED IN PLANTS SET UP WITH FOREIGN COLLABORATION. IN OTHER PLANTS, IT WOULD NOT BE PERMITTED. NO COUNTRY EVER DID SO."

4. ASKED "DO YOU WANT RENEWED AID FROM THE UNITED STATES?", SHE REPLIED "I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN BY ' DO WE WANT RENEWED AID,' WE'VE ... THERE WAS A PROGRAM WHICH WAS ABRUPTLY CUT SHORT BY THE UNITED STATES. NOW, WE DID NOT SAY MUCH AT THAT TIME. WHEN THEY NOW WANT TO RESUME IT, WE ARE NOT SAYING MUCH NOW EITHER. NOW THIS DOESN'T MEAN THAT WE ARE--WHAT SHALL I SAY?--THAT WE ARE NOT IN NEED OF HELP. WE DO NEED HELP FROM THE UNITED STATES AS WELL AS OTHER COUNTRIES IN CERTAIN AREAS, BUT IT IS UP TO THOSE COUNTRIES TO DECIDE WHETHER THEY WANT TO HELP OR NOT."

5. ASKED "DO YOU AGREE THAT THE PROSPECTS FOR A NEW DETENTE BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN HAVE BEEN DAMAGED BY INDIA'S NUCLEAR TESTING...?", SHE COMMENTED: " NOW THIS... I HAVE ALREADY STATED MY VIEWS THAT THERE IS NO NEED WHY THIS DETENTE SHOULD BE DAMAGED IN ANY WAY. IT'S...THIS HAS TO BE A TWO-WAY THING; BUT SO FAR AS WE ARE CONCERNED, WE SHALL CONTINUE TO MAKE EFFORTS. EVEN EVER SINCE THE SIMLA AGREEMENT AND IN ORDER TO GET MR. BHUTTO TO SIMLA, IT WAS INDIA THAT TOOK ALL THE INITIATIVES. AND EVERY TIME IT SEEMED THAT THERE WOULD BE AN OBSTACLE OR THERE WAS A BLOCK OF SOME KIND, WE TRIED TO FIND A WAY OUT AND GOT THINGS GOING. SO I HOPE THAT, WELL, WE'LL GET OVER THIS PRESENT...PAKISTAN WILL GET OVER ITS PRESENT MOOD. UNFORTUNATELY, HE'S TAKEN THIS... PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO HAS TAKEN THIS OPPORTUNITY OF SAYING ALL KINDS OF THINGS ABOUT OUR SITUATION INSIDE INDIA WHICH IS AGAINST THE SIMLA AGREEMENT. ONE OF THE THINGS WE AGREED ON WAS THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS."

6. ASKED FURTHER ABOUT AID, THE PRIME MINISTER COMMENTED "WELL, WE WANT COOPERATION IN CERTAIN SOPHISTICATED AREAS WHERE WE DON'T HAVE THE KNOW-HOW OURSELVES. RIGHT NOW THERE ARE CERTAIN SPECIAL PROBLEMS. THAT IS, WE ARE VERY SHORT OF FERTILIZER FOR INSTANCE. AND WE WOULD VERY MUCH APPRECIATE

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ANY HELP IN THAT DIRECTION.OF COURSE, THE REAL HELP TO ANY COUNTRY LIKE INDIA IS BETTER TRADE RELATIONS BEACUSE THAT HELPS US TO STAND ON OUR OWN FEET. THEN OF COURSE, THERE IS THE QUESTION OF THE PAST DEBTS BECAUSE YOU KNOW A LOT OF CREDIT WHICH WE ARE GETTING NOW IS MERELY ON PAPER. MOST OF IT OR ALL OF IT GOES TO REPAY WHAT WE'VE TAKEN EARLIER. SO YOU CAN CALL IT AID; BUT ACTUALLY SO FAR AS WE ARE CONCERNED, IT IS NON-EXISTENT."

MOYNIHAN UNQUOTED SISCO

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